

AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph numbers [0012] on page 3, [0021] and [0022] on page 6 of the specification as follows:

[0012] The ~~CRB~~ carbonized rice bran ceramic (referred to hereinbelow as CRBC) is a carbon-based material obtained by modification of the RB ceramic. The ~~CRB~~ carbonized rice bran ceramic is obtained by mixing defatted bran obtained from rice bran and a thermosetting resin, primary firing the mixture in an inactive gas at a temperature of 700-1000°C, grinding to a size of not more than about 100 mesh to obtain a carbonized powder, mixing the carbonized powder with a thermosetting resin, press molding under a pressure of 20-30 MPa, and heat treating the molding again at a temperature of 500-1100°C in an inactive atmosphere.

[0021] FIG. 4 is another example of a sleeve bearing.

FIG. 5 is another example of a sleeve bearing.

FIG. 6 is another example of a sleeve bearing.

[0022] FIG. 1 is a schematic drawing showing the assembly of a pump for use in water. Sleeve bearings 2 and 2' are mounted on a rotary shaft 1-1 to form a rotor assembly 1. An impeller 4 is fitted on a distal end portion of the rotary shaft 1-1 that protrudes from the central portion of a pump casting B3. An O-ring is located on each side of the pump casting B3. On the other hand, a stator assembly 8 is tightly closed in an outer peripheral watertight space formed by a flanged housing (with collar) 6 and a flanged can seal (with collar) 9 so as to prevent water from penetrating therein. A hall sensor assembly 7 is placed between the flanged housing 6 and stator assembly 8. The rotor assembly 1 is accommodated in the inner space of the flanged

can seal 9. A submersible pump can be assembled by mounting the flanged housing 6, pump casting B3, and a flanged pump casing A5 in a manner that they sandwich the flanged can seal 9, and mounting the flanged pump casing B3 and the flanged housing 6 with fixing means such as bolts and nuts or screws. The pump assembly so formed allows fluid from impeller side to flow to the rotor side.